UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/468
S/1998/929
7 October 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 45
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 7 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 7 October 1998 addressed to you by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan concerning the present situation in Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-29692 (E) 071098

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Annex

Letter dated 7 October 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, pursuant to document A/52/1006-S/1998/727, dated 7 August 1998, has the honour to communicate the following on the presence of Pakistani military personnel in Afghanistan.

The information collected herein represents data obtained by the intelligence services of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, statements by Pakistani officials and reports in Pakistani newspapers. The figures may bear plus or minus 15 per cent inaccuracy.

1. Pakistan began dispatching personnel into Taliban-occupied areas of Afghanistan in 1994, and their number has steadily increased.

(a) Officers and other servicemen of the Pakistani military intelligence services (ISI), who are in charge of tactical, organizational, administrative and intelligence aspects of military operations, of command and control and of political assignments - in sum those Pakistani officers who carry out the ISI-designated policy and schemes in Afghanistan - are currently estimated at 800 men.

(b) Members of Pakistani paramilitary organizations and groups, patronized by ISI:

(i) Harakat-ul-Ansar (renamed Harakat-ul-Mujahideen in order to conceal its past record of terrorism);

(ii) Sipah-i-Sahaaba (a terrorist group whose platform entails only the killing of Shi'as, now mobilized by ISI in Afghanistan against the Hazara ethnic group and other members of the Shi'a sect);

(iii) Other extremist groups with different denominations, Arab and Pakistani, under the ISI assignments.

Some of these combatants serve on a rotational basis between Afghanistan and other battlefields. The aforementioned groups and Pakistani ISI liaison officers to them total 3,800 men.

(c) Individuals and groups called "Sarhad Militia" (armed tribal units trained and mobilized since the time of the British rule by Pakistan) include about 2,500 men.

2. Pakistani units specializing in urban warfare and ready to "defend" Kabul City against an eventual liberation attempt from the north number 4,300 men.

3. Armed personnel called "volunteers", who have entered Afghanistan since July 1998 after the sudden closure of madrassas (religious schools in the North-West Frontier Province and parts of Punjab subsequent to appeals for jihad, i.e. war against non-Muslims), who have been dispatched for the recent occupation assignments of the northern cities of Afghanistan and the majority of whom speak Punjabi, are estimated at 16,500 men.

4. New "volunteer groups", which arrived in Afghanistan between 20 and 26 September 1998, represent 5,000 men. On 5 October 1995 it was learned that fresh groups of Pakistani mercenaries were recently ferried from Jalalabad to Ghorband and Khenjan.

The total number of Pakistanis in Afghanistan - excluding prisoners of war - comprise around 33,000 men.